



# European Approach to Micro-credentials

Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON  
Head of Higher Education Unit  
European Commission  
DG EAC

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# A joint initiative: European Commissioners Gabriel and Schmit



# Key priorities for Higher Education



- Skills Agenda July 2020
- European Education Area Sept 2020
- Digital Education Action Plan Sept 2020
- Future Erasmus Programme 2021-2027

# The importance of acting now

## Changing nature of work

A rapidly changing society undergoing environmental, technological, and social transformations



People increasingly need flexible training to meet the changing skills demands

## Impact of COVID-19

Demand for various online learning opportunities has accelerated



Demand for alternative credentials, their recognition and validation becomes urgent

## Need for a common Understanding

Massive increase in different forms of alternative credentials



Need for a **transparent common definition** and boost of take-up, validation, recognition and portability

# Higher Education Consultation Group



**3 online meetings**  
26 May, 30 June,  
16-17 September

**Final report autumn  
2020, with common  
definition**





## **Common definition**



***"A micro-credential is a recognised proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards."***

*The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards.*

# Draft list of critical information elements

- Identification of the learner
- Title of the micro-credential
- Country/Region
- Awarding body
- ISCED field of education and training
- Date when the micro-credential was issued
- Notional workload
- Level of the learning experience
- Learning outcomes
- Form of participation in the learning activity
- Type of assessment
- Supervision and identity verification during assessment
- Quality assurance of the credential

- Prerequisites needed to enrol in the learning activity\*
- Grade achieved\*
- Integration / stackability options\*
- Duration of validity\*
- Further information\*



# Micro-credentials: The way forward



## A common definition

Wide **consultations** among the education and training community

Follow-up by the **Council of ministers**

Establish the appropriate follow up structure for micro-credentials within the **Bologna Process working structures**

## Quality Assurance

Explore the possible adaptation of the Bologna instruments in context of the **Erasmus+ MICROBOL project** (2020-2022)

Possible adaptation of the ESGs during the **2024 Ministerial Conference of the Bologna Process**

## Recognition

Explore the possible adaptation of the recognition instruments to address the need for a **standardised approach** to recognition

Possible adaptation of the Bologna instruments during the **2024 Bologna Ministerial Conference**

**European level**

European Commission



# Roadmap of actions



Storage

National actions

Take-up

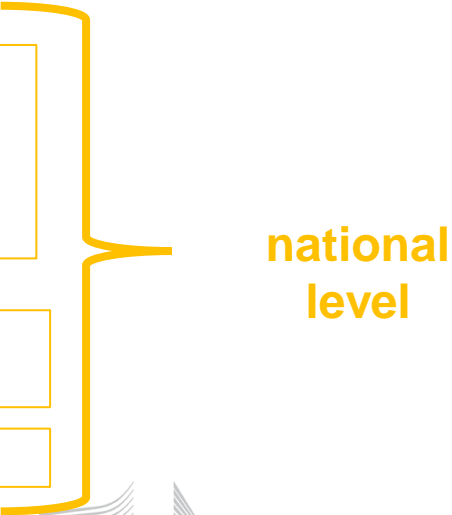
Europass and digitally signed credentials  
Link with the European Student Card initiative

**Consultation at national level** involving all relevant national stakeholders:

- Piloting of actions
- National regulatory framework
- Availability of (EU) funding

EU support through the **Erasmus programme** and **Structural funds** for higher education

Support the development of **sustainable business models**



national level

# Building on Erasmus+ projects

- [Microbol](#): Micro-credentials linked to the Bologna Process key commitments
- [MicroHE](#): micro-credentialing in European Higher Education
- [CORSHIP](#): « Corporate EduPreneurship »
- Projects in the area of recognition: [e-Valuate](#), [PARADIGMS](#) and just starting: STACQ – “Stacking credits and the future of qualifications”, coordinated by NUFFIC
- [MOOC Consortium & European Short Learning Programmes](#) for continuous professional development and lifelong learning
- [European Consortium of Innovative Universities](#): Competence passport and micro-credentials
- [Open Education Passport](#) – creation of a digital standard format for documenting open education credentials based on ECTS
- [ECCOE](#): European Credit Clearinghouse for Opening up Education
- [Open Badge Network](#): supporting the development of an Open Badge ecosystem

# Next steps – EU approach to Micro-credentials 2020-2021

- Publication of the expert report November/December 2020
- Wide public consultations Early 2021
- Council Recommendation End 2021



Let's write  
the future  
together...